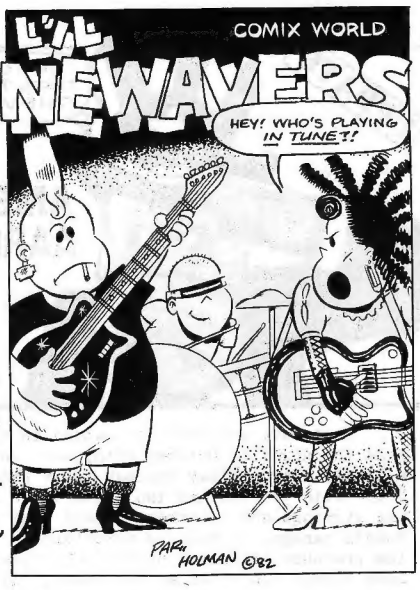




COMIX WORLD 210. December 1, 1982. © Clay Geerdes, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707. All Rights Reserved. $11 for 48 issues. Logos by Clark Dissmeyer and Steve Fiorilla. ECOPHOBIAS © Jeff Karrow (whose art appears in the new BAD GIRL ART 3--$2.50 from CW). New minis include Jim Williams' NOW COMIX 1, Geo Kochell's TOO-TENSE TOONS 1, Jane Oliver's PAGAN 2, Dale Oliver's LOW GRADE 7. New ug-style comix include Kim Deitch's adaptation of EATING RAOUL, CUTEY BUNNY ($2.25pp from Army Surplus Komikz, POB 2221, Hollywood, CA 2221--review next ish), RIP OFF COMIX 11 (now in magazine format at $2.95). Promised for December: WEIRDO 6 and ZAP 10. Spain is finishing the cover for SF COMIC BOOK 7 so we may see that one before Christmas.* I'll be speaking at BAY CON in San Jose (Red Lion Inn) on Saturday, Nov 27, 1982 (Noon on how to do your own comic/2pm slide show on history of ugs).* Dissmeyer has collected his one-pagers into TOO MUCH FUN COMICS. 75¢/2 stamps from him, Box 296, Fullerton, NE 68638.* We're going to do the Berkeley Con in 1983 so save your money. C.G.

Dip Stories #1 -- review by Diana Schutz

Fairly quickly following the publication of American Splendor #7, Greg Budgett and Gary Dumm are back on the comix scene, teamed up this time not with Harvey Pekar, but with writer Scott MacGregor. Their Dip Stories is a nice book, with highlights being "They Shoot Smart-Asses Don't They?", a story of two middle-class "hippies" and their girlfriends getting some kicks from ballroom dancing with the local elderly straight folk, and "Death of a Day", the recounting of tragic events in Cleveland during July '69 when an unexpected and cataclysmic storm left death in its wake.

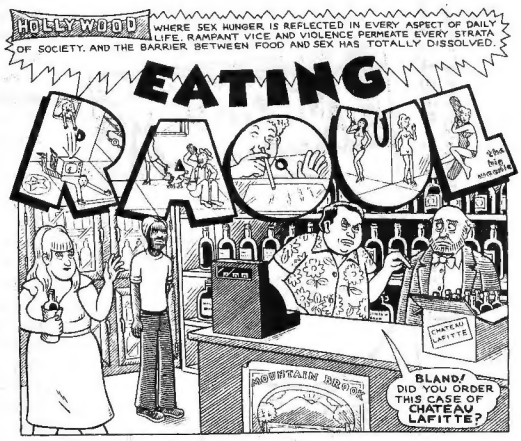
Dip Stories does bear a certain resemblance to American Splendor, with its occasional slice-of-life anecdotes, however MacGregor's writing tends to miss the mark, lacking the deeply personal touches and bits of insight so characteristic of the Pekar style. Not that this is necessarily bad-- but just that it seems MacGregor is trying to get there and hasn't quite made it yet. Perhaps next issue, if there is one.

MacGregor does delve into autobiography, particularly concerning his parochial upbringing, but lampoons it--and while the stories are outrageously funny, as his "Second to Nuns", they are far less touching or human than they might have been. (How odd--or at least ironic--that a strict religious heritage so often results in such twisted perspectives, as evidenced in "Saints and Sinners" featuring the nose of St. Oliver Plunkett! MacGregor is not alone in this however--both Berni Wrightson and Gary Groth have suffered from a similar kind of upbringing. And you can take that any way you want!)

Dip Stories #1 is a worthy read, all in all, with Stan Walsh, Sean Carroll, and Brian Chalmers rounding out its list of contributors. In a time when undergrounds seem to be drawing their last breath, it's a relief to have a bit of fresh air like Dip Stories come along and help revitalize the market.

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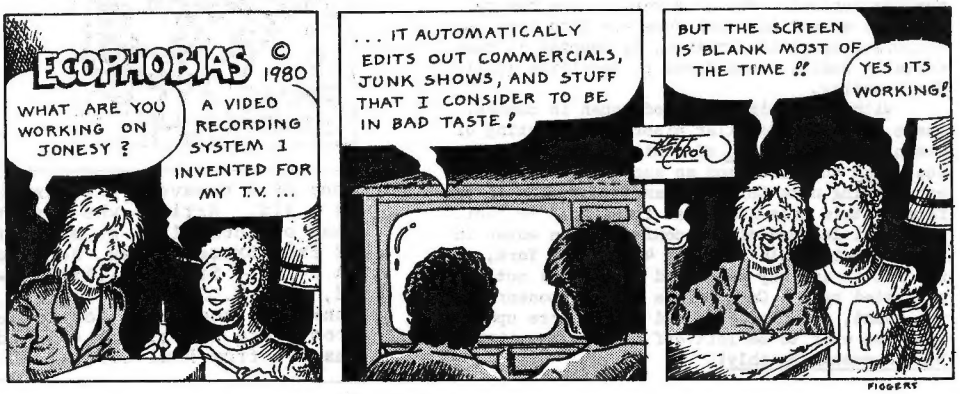
I was in Lincoln recently visiting my mother and we went out to the local shopping center to have something to eat. Everywhere we walked you could hear the latest football game between Nebraska and whoever. In the restaurant where we had our lunch, it was blasting at us, not at a low, but a high-pitched volume. Talk about 1984. I mean to walk through the Hinky Dinky Market and hear about line drives and quarterbacks getting sacked, well...I mentioned this to Dissmeyer, who lives in Nebraska, and he had this to say, "Nebraska is the home of football fascism. If you say you don't like football, it's kinda like saying you raped Kate Smith (by the way, my vote for Takiest Moment of TV in '82 was when they wheeled out a wasted, invalid stroke afflicted Kate Smith at the end of of--what--Emmy Awards). People in our town (Fullerton) are all bloated up with pride that our little 1,440 person hamlet has two gorillas on the NU team. Never mind that Fullerton has produced one of the best contemporary cartoonists (tee hee) ...grrrrrr... You can't go anywhere on Saturday without having football crammed down your throat by loudspeakers... Saturdays in the Fall are hell here. And all the Big Red knick knack shit. Hey, what a great idea for a comic! "Go Big Red" dildoes." Not to mention baby bottles and women's panties. While I was in Lincoln one year, I went in the UN bookstore and there they were, white panties with GO BIG RED written on the back in red letters. Well, I saw an easy hundred bucks staring me in the face. I bought a pair of the panties and put them in my suitcase. When I got back to the real world, I found a model, shot some photos, and kept the slides in my darkroom until I knew the mags were about to launch their Fall issues--all the men's slicks work 3-5 months in advance so freelancers have to adjust their calendars and think accordingly.--then I sent them off. I got a couple of bites and made $125.00. One of the pictures ran in the latest issue of ADAM. Actually, I like football. Watch a lot of the pro games. Support the players in their strike against the owners. But I certainly don't approve of football piped into department stores and restaurants. If I want to watch a game, I want to watch it on my own terms.

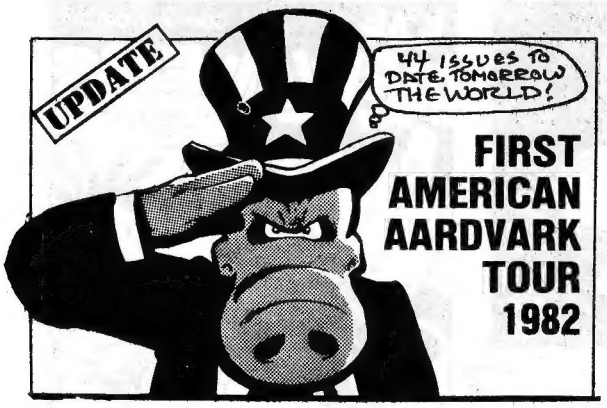




ZOOMORPHIA. Steve Scharff wants to get out a serious funny animal comic. If you're into doing something for that, reply to him at 516 Buchanan St., Hillside, NJ 07205. Payment in copies.

Tom Brinkman saw S. Clay Wilson's current show in New York. He said the recent art was mostly in color. "Truly amazing. He also had a new "Pissgums" strip up that's gonna be in ZAP #10." Brinkman met Jim Ryan and Charles Schneider there. Said he saw the full length film Schneider did over the summer and was impressed. Schneider did MAGGOTZINE.





When Dave and Deni Sim landed in the Bay Area the night of October 20th, they were just a little over halfway through their First American Tour--with yet another two weeks to go of shops and signings and sketches. Whew! And somehow they'd managed to hold up surprisingly well under the pressure of such a hectic schedule--one that Dave simply described as "intense", and accurately so, considering they were averaging about five signings per week during the five-week tour. This was hardly a vacation, folks!

I met the Sims at their hotel the night they got into town, thanks to young Matt Denn who had pre-arranged an interview with them for his fanzine, Comics Coast to Coast, and had kindly consented to let me tag along. While Dave was upstairs, engrossed in the outcome of the World Series, Matt and I joined Deni for dinner in the hotel restaurant. Not a bit worse for wear, Deni Sim was every inch the professional I suspected she'd be. She is a most remarkable woman--whom I both respect and admire. Although Dave is the artist and creator of the popular Cerebus, and consequently the person around whom most of the fan-fare revolves, Deni is clearly the driving force behind Aardvark-Vanaheim and every bit as responsible as her husband for the success of their auspicious aardvark. Let's face it--she's running one hell of a business, and doing it right. Having begun in 1977 with an initial print run of 2000, the circulation of Cerebus the Aardvark has virtually doubled every year, its current print run at about 15,000. This is incredible by any standards for independent publishing, especially considering that the book comes out, on schedule, 15 times a year. Furthermore, hardly content to rest on its laurels, Aardvark-Vanaheim has continued to branch out via such items as the Diamondback card sets and Swords of Cerebus, the partial-reprint collections. Recently, Cerebus has featured "Unique Stories", a four-page back-up showcasing other talented artists in the field. And spinning off "Unique", collections of the work of such people as Arn Saba and Michael T. Gilbert are also planned for late '82 and early '83 release. Deni is obviously one busy lady!

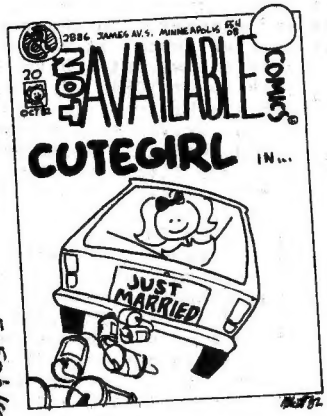
An informed, articulate businesswoman, she attributes her success as a publisher, at least in part, to letting the artist do the book he or she wants to do. Deni does not profess nor aspire to be an editor. With a sound business sense backing her as well as actual job experience in printing, she trusts her artists and pretty much gives them free rein. She does, however, run a tight ship and oversees everything, including the actual printing, in order to maintain quality control. For this reason, she has no plans to expand Aardvark-Vanaheim into some vast corporate operation; rather, by keeping it comfortably small, she refuses to sacrifice quality for quantity.

Within the tiny realm of women in comics, there is an even smaller minority consisting of women in the business of comics. That Deni Sim does what she does, and so successfully, is an encouraging note to all women--especially in the face of this male-dominated industry. In fact, when Deni learned of the conference on women in comics, being held November 4th in New York, she was not in any way perturbed that she'd not been contacted by the Cartoonists Guild, sponsors of the event, and claimed she'd be far more upset were she ever to be left off the mailing list of Businesswoman Monthly!

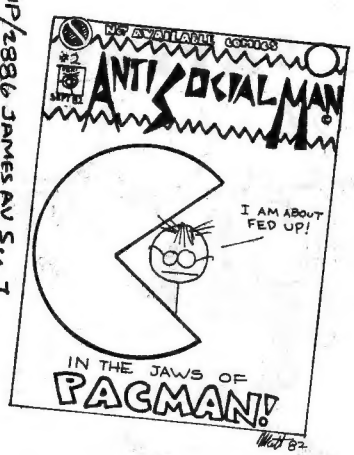


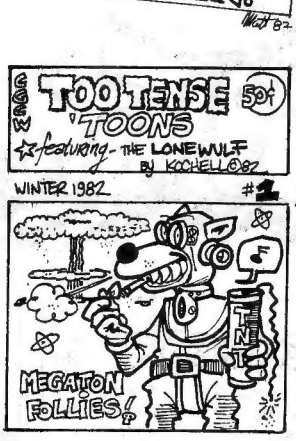
featuring NOWBOY and his friends...

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50¢ STAMP/CW

Meeting Dave, of course, was an experience in itself. Having long admired this man and his work, I approached our introduction with the nervous sensibility of the gushing fan--and was blown away by his recognition of me, based on the few LOCs I've sent his way. Dave Sim is a nice guy, very casual in his demeanor, who in no way conforms to the standard image of the petulant, egotistic artist. Throughout Matt's interview, Dave was relaxed, telling funny stories and delivering hilarious one-liners when least expected, though very serious about his work--with what I can only describe as "Canadian integrity". Cerebus does not, he explained, cater to the "smurf set", nor would he allow it to--even though there are scads of money likely to be made by so doing. Rather, in some ways like Barks' Uncle Scrooge, Cerebus is hardly the typically saccharine funny animal, but kind of mean and self-indulgent, a greedy little aardvark whose market appeal stems precisely from the reader's identification with the earth-pig's baser desires, and as a result, a paradoxically lovable creature.

During the Sims' four-day stay in town, I had the opportunity to speak with Dave on several different occasions and in several different contexts--and found him to be an incredibly versatile individual, equally at home discussing the application of computer technology to the comic retail business in a gathering of distributors and retailers, as well as at an informal kitchen party, drinking beer and trading '60s stories wit da guys! He's well-versed in both political and economic theory--as is apparent in his current "High Society" storyline in Cerebus--and extremely knowledgeable about the collectable comics business, having himself worked, at one time, in a specialty shop in Canada.

Later that first night, after the interview, Deni, Dave, and I adjourned to the hotel bar--where Deni discovered Brandy Alexanders! We sat and talked for a few hours--about comics, about Canada, about ourselves. Dave spoke openly about the recent death of Gene Day, one of his closest friends, and the effect that had had upon him. Though he finds himself cringing now when someone asks to speak to him privately, half expecting to hear more tragic news of some kind, ultimately he's managed to resolve his own personal feelings about the death of his friend--and he's grateful, at least, that Gene died as he'd wanted to: quickly, without the prolonged agony of illness, and at the drawing board. A few days before his death, Gene had been offered work on one of DC's major titles--and, especially given Gene's treatment at Marvel, Dave was glad that his friend had been so enthusiastically approached by DC. He felt that that recognition had meant a lot to Gene and regretted that he hadn't lived long enough to truly enjoy it. How sad for the Sims that their tour was preceded, by one week, by the death of their friend. Still, Dave's tribute to Gene Day lives on, in the guise of Dirty Fleagle McDrew, a character modeled upon his late friend.

Despite the tragedy of death and despite the gruelling nature of their tour, the Sims were in fine form throughout their three Bay Area appearances, spending time with all their fans, signing their names over and over again, and Dave drawing sketches, in some cases well beyond the scheduled appearance times in order to accommodate everyone. Cerebus fans are generally older and more literate than the average comics fan, but Dave and Deni were equally able to deal politely with the few snot-nosed, retentive types who hounded them unmercifully at one of the signings. In fact, their focus during the entire tour was on the fans--of whatever variety--and one can only admire them both for being so wonderful and willing to make time for all of us.

-- Diana Schutz

LIL NEWAVERS 1 is completed. This one represents something new. Each page is done by a newave artist in his own style and includes a photo of him as a kid. Artists who want to be in #2 or 3 should send me a snapshop of themselves as a kid (2-5years).* HANK AND HANNAH COMICS 1, $2 from Bruce Duncan, Berkeley Inn, Rm 414, 2501 Haste St. Berkeley, CA 94704.* Steven Willis' new one is DELAYED STRESS SYNDROME FUNNIES, $2, 1121 W. Jackson, Olympia, WA 98502.*ANTI-ROK is an unusual comix-punkzine, something for collectors of contemporary weirdness--$1.50 from Bruce Lentz, Box 442, Edinboro, PA 16412.* Micro-COMICS/3 for a quarter from Paul Curtis, RD #2, Saegertown, PA 16433. C.G.